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portions, wherein in both said first relative position and said second relative position of said clamping portions, said clamping portions are substantially fixedly maintained with respect to one another.

2. The knife holder of claim 1, further comprising a base, wherein said first clamping portion is fixedly disposed with respect to said base, wherein said second clamping portion is movably disposed with respect to said base, and wherein said clamping mechanism is coupled to said second clamping portion, and wherein, in both said first relative position and said second relative position of said clamping portions,

3. The knife holder of claim 2, wherein said base includes a pivot point, wherein said second clamping portion is adapted to pivot about said pivot point in response to movement of said clamping mechanism.

4. The knife holder of claim 3, wherein said first clamping portion and said second clamping portion include complementary pinch-off surfaces adapted to be spaced apart in said first relative position, and to make contact in said second relative position wherein, in cooperation with said pivot point, said pinch-off surfaces fixedly maintain said second clamping portion between said first clamping portion and said base.

5. The knife holder of claim 4, wherein said pinch-off surfaces are further adapted in said second relative position of said clamping portions to close off open space in the knife holder that is disposed behind the knife.

6. The knife holder of claim 3, wherein said clamping mechanism is coupled to said second clamping portion at a driving end of said second clamping portion, wherein said second clamping portion further includes a driven end adapted to receive at least a portion of the knife.

7. The knife holder of claim 6, wherein said second clamping portion and said base are adapted so that movement of said clamping mechanism pivots said second clamping portion about said pivot point so as to move said driving end substantially in one direction and said driven end substantially in the opposite direction.

8. The knife holder of claim 7, wherein said clamping mechanism is connected to said driving end and said second clamping portion is adapted so that said driving end is moved a greater distance than said driven end by said clamping mechanism.

9. The knife holder of claim 8, wherein said clamping mechanism includes a threaded fastener having an end, wherein said first clamping portion is adapted to threadingly receive said threaded fastener so that said end extends therebeyond for coupling to said second clamping portion.

10. A knife holder for holding a knife having a first side and a second side, the knife holder comprising:

a first clamping portion adapted to receive the first side of the knife;

a second clamping portion adapted to receive the second side of the knife and to pivot about a pivot point;

a clamping mechanism coupled to said second clamping portion and adapted to pivot said second clamping portion about said pivot point for clamping the knife between said first and said second clamping portions; and

a base including said pivot point, said second clamping portion being disposed so as to make movable contact with said base.

11. The knife holder of claim 10, said first clamping portion being fixedly disposed above said base, said second clamping portion being disposed between said first clamping portion and said base, wherein said second clamping portion is adapted to pivot about said pivot point in response to movement of said clamping mechanism.

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12. The knife holder of claim 10, wherein said second clamping portion includes a rounded surface and wherein said pivot point is part of a complementary rounded surface on which said rounded surface of said clamping portion is slidably disposed.]

13. A knife holder for holding a knife having a first side and a second side, the knife holder comprising

a first clamping portion adapted to receive the first side of the knife;

a second clamping portion adapted to receive the second side of the knife and to pivot about a pivot point; and

a clamping mechanism coupled to said second clamping portion and adapted to pivot said second clamping portion about said pivot point for clamping the knife between said first and said second clamping portions, said first clamping portion being fixedly disposed above said base, said second clamping portion being disposed between said first clamping portion and said base, wherein said second clamping portion is adapted to pivot about said pivot point in response to movement of said clamping mechanism.

14. The knife holder of claim [13] 18, wherein said first clamping portion and said second clamping portion include complementary pinch-off surfaces adapted to be spaced apart in said first relative position, and to make contact in said second relative position wherein, in cooperation with said pivot point, said pinch-off surfaces fixedly maintain said second clamping portion between said first clamping portion and said base.

15. The knife holder of claim 14, wherein said pinch-off surfaces are further adapted in said second relative position of said clamping portions to close off open space in the knife holder that is disposed behind the knife.

16. The knife holder of claim [13] 18, wherein said clamping mechanism includes a threaded fastener having an end, wherein said first clamping portion is adapted to threadingly receive said threaded fastener so that said end extends beyond said first clamping portion for coupling to said second clamping portion.

[17. A knife holder for holding a knife having a first side and a second side the knife holder comprising:

a base including a pivot point;

a first clamping portion substantially fixedly disposed with respect to said base and adapted to receive the first side of the knife;

a second clamping portion movably disposed between said first clamping portion and said base and adapted to receive the second side of the knife, said second clamping portion and said first clamping portion being adapted to clamp the knife therebetween; and

a clamping mechanism coupled to said second clamping portion at a driving end of said second clamping portion and adapted for moving said second clamping portion so that said clamping portions obtain a relative position wherein said clamping portions are spaced apart for removing the knife from between said clamping portions, wherein said second clamping portion further includes a driven end adapted to receive at least a portion of the knife, and wherein said second clamping portion and said base are adapted so that movement of said clamping mechanism pivots said second clamping portion about said pivot point so as to move said driving end substantially in one direction and said driven end substantially in the opposite direction.

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